GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2238
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
BAGLIHAR HYDRO POWER PROJECT
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neutral expert appointed by World Bank has cleared the Baglihar Hydro-Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

a&b) The Neutral Expert appointed by the World Bank on the Baglihar hydro-electric project gave his expert determination on 12.2.2007. The determination upheld India's design flood value of 16,500 cumec against Pakistan's calculations of 14,900 cumec; upheld India's design of gated spillways; provided for freeboard of 3 metres as against

4.5 metres designed by India and 0.84 m calculated by Pakistan; provided for a maximum pondage of 32.56 million cubic metres (MCM) as against 37.5 MCM calculated by India and 6.22 MCM calculated by Pakistan; fixed the intake level 3 metres higher than as designed by India; and provided for India to resort to drawing down of reservoir for its maintenance and sustainability during monsoon season each year. This will enable sediment management and ensure the sustainability of the project.

(c) In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, the decision of the Neutral Expert on all matters within his competence shall be final and binding upon the parties and upon any Court of Arbitration established under the relevant provisions of the Treaty.